

REMARKS

Claims 9-13, 16-20, 23 and 26-29 are pending in this application, of which claims 9-13 and 16-20 have been amended. Claims 23 and 26-29 have been withdrawn from further consideration. No new claims have been added.

Claims 9-13 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner alleges that the language “an inclined surface of said edge disk cutter that contact with said ridge at least at a part of contact with said notch” is unclear. The Examiner further alleges that the ridge cannot make contact with the notch because the notch is not a tangible object.

In response, claims 9 and 16 have been amended. The amendment is supported as follows: As described by page 11, lines 5-9, the rotary expander used in the invention has the same structure in the top and bottom disk cutter rolls 2 as those of the conventional ones, but is provided different configuration in the edge disk cutter 4. Therefore, the rotary expander used in the present invention includes the disk cutter cluster or disk cutter rolls as illustrated in Figs. 8 and 9. In Fig. 8, the top and bottom disk cutter rolls 2,2 are provided. The top and bottom disk

cutter rolls 2,2 have middle disk cutters 1,1. As described at page 12, lines 26-27, an edge disk cutter 4 is placed at an end of a bottom disk cutter roll. As shown in Fig 1(a), the disk cutter cluster includes several middle disk cutters 1,1 and two edge disk cutters 4,4. In Fig.1(a), the numerical reference 5 is referred to a metal sheet conveyor guide, which is not a part of the disk cutter cluster. In Fig. 1(a), the two edge disk cutters 4,4 are placed at an outermost end of the disk cutter cluster.

As described at Fig. 2 and 3, ridges 4a are disposed at the periphery of the edge disk cutter 4, and a notch 4b is interposed between adjacent ridges 4a, 4a. The notch is provided at the periphery of said edge disk cutter 4 by penetrating the edge disk cutter in the thickness direction of said edge disk cutter.

As described at page 12, lines 12-18, the edge disk cutter 4 has a first face, i.e., Side A and a second face, i.e., Side B. As described at Fig. 1(b), the inclined surface is provided at the second face of the ridge 4a of the edge disk cutter 4. Note that the specification at page 12, lines 16-18 describes that it is not necessarily required to provide the inclined surface on the whole area of the ridges 4a, but is required to provide the inclined surface on the ridges 4a near the valleys 4b.

The amended terms are clear enough to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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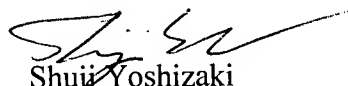
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Note that as argued previously, Tanaka's notch (relief) 3, serving as the "edge node forming part," does not penetrate the edge disk cutter in the thickness direction of the disc cutter.

In view of above, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date. If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case. If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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